

Round II Program Guidelines Request for Waiver

Date:

Waiver Request #: 3

The City of Galveston Program, working with a citizen advisory committee, (Program) for the Hurricane Ike/Dolly Round II Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program recommends that it is in the best interest of the residents of City of Galveston to deviate from the Statewide Guidelines as written and therefore request a waiver of the Texas General Land Office, GLO, Round 2 Housing Program Guidelines.

The Guidelines state (Attachment A II N. (Page 33 of 72)) that "Rehabilitation of existing, hurricane damaged homes is capped at \$65,000. Additional expenses, such as elevation, are allowed as limited by the Housing Assistance Caps as described in the General Guidelines. Estimated rehabilitation costs exceeding this cap will be recommended for reconstruction."

The Program anticipates, based on the location of the targeted areas and the street-by-street windshield survey that a significant number of the houses to be rehabilitated will be historic in nature and obtaining a permit to demolish the historic homes will be very slow or impossible to obtain.

What this means for the program is that damaged homes will be unable to be repaired due to the existing \$65,000 cap and the inability to perform reconstruction on the homes due to Historical Preservation issues.

The Program recommends that for Round 2, the caps for rehabilitation established in Round 1 in the current Housing Guidelines be adopted. This amount is \$160,000 for historic homes. Rehabilitation of non-historic homes would fall under the current statewide Housing Guidelines cap of \$65,000.

If Waiver Request Number 3 is approved, then we would substitute the new \$160,000 rehabilitation cap for the \$65,000 in this request for historic rehabilitations only.

The City of Galveston Program requests that GLO grant this waiver to the Round 2 Housing Guidelines.

Submitted by:

Kelly Huck, Project Manager, URS Corporation

DATE

Approved by:

Jorge Ramirez, Deputy Commissioner, GLO

DATE